

# Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

## September 23, 2004 *Irwin Cotler*

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Treasurer, may I present to you and this Convocation, The Honourable Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and ask that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Possessing a sharp intellect and a strong sense of justice, Irwin Cotler has dedicated his life to the law and to the goal of attaining equal access to that law for all people.

As a professor and a noted author, he has helped to create an awareness of human rights issues and has promoted the use of the law as an effective and peaceful tool to end social injustices. As an international human rights lawyer he has acted as counsel for political prisoners in many countries. He has argued before the Supreme Courts of both Canada and Israel and he has testified before parliamentary committees in Canada and abroad.

As a Member of Parliament and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada he has tirelessly continued his efforts to promote access to justice for all people.

In recognition of his commitment to the advancement of human rights, he was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada, received the first Justice Walter Tarnopolsky Memorial Award, became the first academic to receive The Medal of the Bar of Montreal and was the first recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award.

The Honourable Irwin Cotler is deserving of the highest honour this Society can give and I request you, Sir, to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.